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1970/05/25

Department of State TELEGRAM

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O 251025Z MAY 70
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 907
RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 525
BT
T O P S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 1017

TOP SECRET

INCN: 5509Q
MAY 25, 1970
7:11 A.M.

NODIS/KHMER

SUBJECT: FANK REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN NORTHEAST

1. (C) DATT MET WITH COMMANDER OF JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER, BRIGADIER GENERAL POK SAM AN AT 0900 ON 25 MAY. POK SAM AN STATED THAT FANK IS HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN THE BUNG LUNG (YA 1518)-BA KEV (YA 3816)-LOMPHAT (YV 1493) TRIANGLE IN NORTHEAST CAMBODIA. THIS LAST CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT STRONGHOLD EAST OF THE MEKONG CONTINUES TO BE UNDER CONSTANT ENEMY ATTACK. LABANSIEK (YA 1317) AND LOMPHAT WERE UNDER HEAVIEST PRESSURE AS OF 1100 HOURS 25 MAY. ENEMY HAS NOT INITIATED AN ALL-OUT ATTACK, BUT CONTINUES TO APPLY PRESSURE WITH SMALL ARMS AND MORTAR FIRE ON PERIMETER OF ENTIRE COMPLES. BA KEV IS UNDER LESS PRESSURE BY BEING LOCATED EAST OF THE TRIANGLE AND NEAREST TO ALLIED OPERATIONS AREA. PHNOM PENH STILL HAS RADIO CONTACT WITH 5TH MILITARY REGION COMMAND POST IN LABANSIEK. AIRFIELD AT BUNG LUNG REMAINS IN FRIENDLY HANDS. ROUTE 19 TO SVN REMAINS OPEN. HOWEVER, TO COMPOUND THE SITUATION, CIVILIAN POPULATION AND FANK ELEMENTS ARE SHORT ON FOOD; MILITARY UNITS ARE ALSO LOW ON AMMUNITION.

2. (TS) IN VIEW OF ABOVE SITUATION IN THE TRIANGLE, BG POK SAM AN REQUESTED DATT FORWARD REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AS FOLLOWS:

A. SEND IN KHMER KROM SPECIAL FORCES OF APPROXIMATELY TWO BATTALION FORCE TO REINFORCE FANK ELEMENTS IN THE TRIANGLE. AT THE SAME TIME, SEND IN FORWARD AIR CONTROL TEAMS WITH RADIO EQUIPMENT AND PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT AS NEEDED.

B. RESUPPLY FANK ELEMENTS IN THE TRIANGLE WITH FOOD AND AMMUNITION. POK SAM AN WILL SEND REQUIREMENTS TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH ON AFTERNOON OF 25 MAY.

C. PROVIDE BURLAP BAGS AND BARBED WIRE TO FANK ELEMENTS IN TRIANGLE AREA ALONG WITH ENGINEER ADVISORS TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON UTILIZATION OF THIS MATERIAL IN ESTABLISHING DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

TOP SECRET

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By NARA Date

3. (C) DATT AGREED TO FORWARD GENERAL POK SAM AN'S REQUEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING EMBASSY POLICY. POK SAM AN FURTHER STATED THAT HE IS PREPARED TO FLY TO SAIGON WITH COLONEL PIETSCH AT ONCE IN ORDER TO PRESENT FULL DETAILS OF HIS REQUIREMENTS TO APPROPRIATE US AND SVN OFFICIALS. POK SAM AN WILL PROVIDE CAMBODIAN AIRCRAFT FOR FLIGHT. GP-1.

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By CM NARA Date 12/2/00